



Fishing and Boating Service – Freshwater Fisheries Program
North Branch Potomac River Advisory Committee Meeting
Fisheries Management Activities Update
FY17 (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)
June 20, 2017



North Branch Potomac River Catch and Return Black Bass Fishing Area Reproduction Survey

Fifteen stations were sampled from Keyser to Cumberland in July 2016. A mean of three YOY smallmouth bass/30.5 meters was documented indicating “good” reproduction. Few YOY largemouth bass were collected (< 1 YOY/30.5 meters) – indicating “poor” reproduction.



North Branch Potomac River Watershed Brook Trout Stream Sampling

The following streams were sampled and were found to support brook trout populations: Glade Run, Crooked Run, Trout Run, Riley Spring Run, Laurel Run, North Prong Lostland Run, South Prong Lostland Run, Lostland Run, Elk Lick, Folly Run, and Laurel Run. Elk Lick Run supports both brook trout and wild rainbow trout. As recently as 1996, this stream was practically fishless due to acid mine drainage. Thanks to the efforts of the Maryland Department of Environment's Abandoned Mine Lands Division, water quality improvements have been made to support wild trout populations.

Savage River Trophy Trout Fishing Area Survey – FY17

The Fly Only Area contained about 1,090 adult trout per mile with 90% of the population being wild brown trout and 10% brook trout. The Artificial Lure and Flies Area contained about 900 adult trout per mile with the population being 80% wild brown trout, 12% brook trout, and 8 % rainbow trout. Reproduction was considered “good” in the river with a mean of 990 young of year per mile (53% brook trout, 47% brown trout). A large portion of the brown trout population was in the quality-size range of 12 to 15 inches, while the largest brook trout measured in at 11.5 inches.



Adult Rainbow Trout Stocking – FY17

A total of **39,400 adult rainbow trout** were stocked in the North Branch Potomac River Watershed in FY17. Stocked areas included the NBPR Put and Take Areas upstream of Jennings Randolph Lake, Delayed Harvest Trout Fishing Area, Jennings Randolph Lake, Upper C&R Trout Fishing Area, the Put and Take Trout Fishing Areas at Barum and Westernport, upper Savage River, and the Savage Reservoir.



Fingerling Trout Stocking – FY17

A total of **104,000 fingerling trout** were stocked in the NBPR in FY17. This figure includes 9,000 cutthroat trout, 45,000 brown trout, and 50,000 rainbow trout. Areas stocked were the C&R Areas and the Zero Creel Limit Trout Fishing Area. These fish will provide an exciting angling opportunity to catch the “grand slam” of trout - brook, brown, rainbow, and cutthroat – all in the North Branch Potomac River.



Walleye Fingerling Stocking FY17

A total of **45,000 walleye fingerlings** were stocked in the Savage Reservoir in late April 2017. The Savage River Reservoir was surveyed in early April 2017 to determine if walleye re-stocking efforts were successful. No walleye were collected, so annual introductions of walleye fingerlings will continue until a population is established. Yellow perch, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, bluegills, rainbow trout, white suckers, rock bass, and one brook trout were observed during the survey.



North Branch Potomac River Fisheries Management Areas

Littering and vandalism continue to be a problem at the McCoole and Gary Yoder FMAs. Dumping of household construction debris, alcoholic beverage containers, deer carcasses, graffiti, and fishing regulation sign destruction have recently taken place. The Natural Resource Police were informed about this illegal activity which uses up anglers' monies for us to clean-up these properties.





Frostburg State University and Garrett College students teamed up with the Freshwater Program staff do a clean-up along the Savage River Trophy Trout Fishing Area. Thanks goes out to these volunteers for providing a more enjoyable fishing experience for all anglers at these locations!

McCoole FMA Road Repair Project

MD DNR Engineering and Construction has secured funding to improve the road, drainage, and parking conditions, however no work has taken place. E&C did give us permission to use some of the funding to do in-house repair work before the end of the fiscal year.





Other Projects:

- Boundary marking and land maintenance such as grass mowing and removing dead ash trees on 300 acres of NBPR Fishery Management Areas.
- Extended upstream boundary on the upper Catch and Return Trout Fishing Area about 600 feet to the public access point along the Senator Sarbanes Trail thanks to the USACE. Effective January 1, 2017. Regulation signs were placed in the new area, however we still need to move the boundary cable!



Zero Creel Limit Trout Fishing Area and C&R Black Bass Fishing Area – Black Oak to Pinto. Surveyed on 6/13/17 – trout collected all the way down to Pinto in preferred habitat. Few smallmouth bass collected. We will schedule the Pinto to Cumberland area before the end of June.



Temperature Monitoring – deployed HOBO® monitors on 6/14/17 from the lower C&R Trout Fishing Area to the lower boundary of the Zero Creel Limit at Pinto to determine downstream extend of coldwater management and to determine the effectiveness of the increased coldwater releases from JRL on the critically hot days.

